Appendix A:

Instruments Already Approved

Study Participation Agreement Form and Information for Parents and Students:

- Application Information
- Study Description
- Study Participation Agreement Form

Baseline Questionnaires and Surveys:

- Student Background Questionnaire
- Beginning of Year Teacher Survey

(Sample letter that could be sent by school principal)

ENHANCED READING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM APPLICATION INFORMATION

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian:

This year some of the ninth graders at [insert high school name] will have a chance to benefit from an exciting, new reading program meant to help students do better in high school. You are one of many students who may be eligible for this Enhanced Reading Opportunities (ERO) program. We are thrilled to offer this promising program at our school.

A few features of the ERO program are:

- Small class sizes: only 12 to 15 students per class
- Specially trained teachers
- Interesting reading materials
- Use of computers
- Nationally respected curriculum
- Part of a student's regular class schedule
- Course credit towards graduation.

Also, our school district, [insert district name], is part of a national study to see how well programs like these work. This means that the experiences of our students and teachers in this program will affect federal education policy as well as policies in our own district.

There is a consent form with this letter. You have to fill out the attached form to apply and be considered for the ERO program. The form must be signed by a parent or guardian.

If you have any questions or did not receive the consent form, please contact [insert relevant school contact names and phone numbers here].

Difficulti	у,	
[Insert so	chool princip	al name]

Sincerely



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education

The ERO Program

The Enhanced Reading Opportunities program (ERO) is an effort to better prepare ninth grade students for high school level coursework and state tests. ERO is a reading class that uses a promising reading program chosen by national reading experts. Features of ERO include:

- Small class sizes of only 12-15 students.
- Offered during the school day as part of a student's regular class schedule.
- A teacher specially trained in reading instruction.
- [add more here]

[Sell program more here?]

The ERO Study

Ninth grade students who need extra help with reading are being asked to participate in a very important national study of this program. The U.S. Department of Education has sponsored this study of ERO to determine if this program has a positive impact on how students read and how well they do in high school. The results of this study will help us understand how we can continue to help students do better in school.

To be eligible for the program and as part of the study, students will be asked to return a consent form signed by a parent of guardian. This form will indicate that the parents or guardians agree that:

- Their children can participate in the study.
- Their children can take a reading test that is about 45 minutes long at the beginning and end of the school year.
- Their children can complete a survey that takes about 15 minutes at the beginning and end of the school year.
- The study team can have access to information in their children's school records (for example: grades, attendance, gifted/special education status, test scores).

There are more students eligible for and interested in this program than there are openings. To make things fair, students will be chosen through "random selection" – which is like a lottery, or picking names out of a hat.

Whether or not your child is chosen by lottery for the program, he or she will still be part of the research study.

ERO DESCRIPTION (continued)Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education

The Study Team	The study is being conducted by two not-for-profit research firms, MDRC (New York, NY) and American Institutes for Research (AIR; Washington, DC). The study director is James Kemple, Ed.D., an experienced researcher and former high school teacher. Superintendent Jane Doe and your child's principal support the ERO program and research study.
Privacy Your child's information will be held in strict confidence by team. The study team will not share information about you with anyone unless it is required by law. There are no risks for your child to participate in this prograstudy. Participation is voluntary. Your child will not be pen not participating in the program.	
For More Information	Please contact Principal John Doe at xxx-xxx-xxxx, or the study director, James Kemple at (866) 519-1884 or by email at ERO@air.org.



Study Participation Agreement Form

Your son/daughter's high school is offering a new Enhanced Reading Opportunities (ERO) class for a small group of eligible students. Your son/daughter may be eligible for this program if he/she is identified as needing help in reading.

The ERO class is also part of a national study to learn whether intensive and high-interest reading programs can improve ninth grade students' reading achievement and help them do better in high school. Only those eligible students whose parents agree to let them be part of the study will have a chance to get into this program.

To be part of the ERO class and the study, parents and students must understand the following:

- Because there are limited openings in the ERO classes, some eligible students will not be able to enroll in them.
- A lottery will be used to choose which students can enroll. This means that every eligible student will have the same chance to get into this program.
- The ERO reading class is offered as an elective class and for credit. If your son/daughter is selected for the ERO class, he/she will take this class instead of another elective class or study hall. The ERO class will not replace the regular English/Language Arts class or any other required classes.
- Students who are not selected to participate in the ERO program may participate in any other programs or courses in the high school for which they qualify.
- Your son/daughter will be part of the research study whether selected by the lottery for the ERO reading class or not.
- As part of the study, your son/daughter will be asked to take a reading test and fill in a short survey at the start and end of the school year. No student has to answer questions that he/she does not want to answer.
- For students participating in the study, the study will collect information from school records during their high school careers. This will include information such as students' grades, attendance, free/reduced-price lunch status, and test scores.
- All information about your son/daughter will be kept confidential to the extent allowable by law and used only for the study and related research.

Please indicate YES or NO with an X in the box below.

[] YES, I would like my child to participa ERO reading program and I give per for my child to participate in this study.	rmission to participate in this study.
Print Name of Parent/Guardian:	
Parent/Guardian Signature:	
Phone Number: ()	Date:
Print Name of Student:	
Student Signature:	
Student Birthdate:/	Student ID Number:
Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education Conducted by MDRC	OMB #: 1850-0801 Expiration: 6/30/2008

Version: 7/27/2005

Study Director: James Kemple, Ed.D., phone (866) 519-1884



STUDENT BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE 2005-2006 GRADE 9

First Name:	Last Name:	
School:		
Student ID #:	Date of Birth:/	Year

PURPOSE

We are asking you these questions to get information about your background and your experiences with reading. You're the best person to help us learn about these things. We are interested in your own responses to these questions. You do not need to ask your parents, teachers, or friends for help on the answers.

This is not a test – there are no right or wrong answers. Your answers will not affect whether you are accepted into the Enhanced Reading Opportunities (ERO) program. Your answers will be used for research only, so please be as honest as you can.

You must complete this booklet to apply to ERO. However, you do not have to answer any individual questions you don't like. We hope that you answer all the questions because <u>we need your answers to make our</u> research complete.

DIRECTIONS

Read each question carefully. Try to answer all questions. If no answer fits exactly, pick the one that comes closest. It is important that you follow the directions for responding to each question. Mark () each answer clearly.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE USED FOR RESEARCH ONLY. YOUR ANSWERS WILL NOT AFFECT WHETHER YOU ARE ACCEPTED INTO THE ERO PROGRAM.

MDRC, New York, NY. www.mdrc.org
For questions, contact Jim Kemple at <u>James.Kemple@mdrc.org</u>, Phone: (866) 519-1884

The U.S. Department of Education wants to protect the privacy of individuals who participate in surveys. Your answers will be combined with other surveys, and no one will know how you answered the questions. This survey is authorized by law (1) Sections 171(b) and 173 of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-279 (2002); and (2) Section 9601 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 (Pub. L. 107-110).

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is **1850-0801**. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to be 15 minutes per respondent, including the time to review instructions, respond to the questions, and review the responses. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208.

SURVEY ID#	IRVEY ID#	<u> </u>
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First, please tell us about yourself and your family.

1.	Wha	t is your gender?
	\mathbf{O}_1	Male
	$_{2}$ O	Female
3.		ch of the following best describes you? k () one or more.
	a□	White
	$_{\rm b}\square$	Black or African American
	$_{\rm c}$	Asian
	$_{\rm d}\square$	American Indian or Alaska Native
	$_{\mathrm{e}}\square$	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

2.	Are vou	Hispani	c or l	Latino/a?

- ₁**O** Yes, I am Hispanic or Latino/a.
- No, I am not Hispanic or Latino/a.

FOR OFFICE USE	E ONLY		
GRS			
Agmt Form	Y	N	

SURVEY ID#

For the questions in this section, mark (\checkmark) only one answer for each question.

4.		your family get a newspaper at least four a week?	5.		your family get any magazines regularly? Yes
	\mathbf{O}_1	Yes		-	
	$_{2}$ O	No		$_{2}$ O	No
	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	I don't know		\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	I don't know
6.	About	how many books are there in your home?	7.	Is the	re a computer at home that you use?
	\mathbf{C}_{l}	Few (0-10)		\mathbf{O}_1	Yes
	$_2$ O	Enough to fill one shelf (11-25)		$_{2}$ O	No
	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	Enough to fill one bookcase (26-100)			
	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$	Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)			
8.		e an encyclopedia in your home? It could et of books, or it could be on the computer.	9.		re a world atlas in your home? It could be a of maps of the world, or it could be on the
	\mathbf{O}_1	Yes		-	
	$_{2}$ O	No		\mathbf{O}_1	Yes
	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	I don't know		$_{2}$ O	No
				\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	I don't know
10		how many pages a day do you have to a school and for homework?	11.	How	far in school did your mother go?
		F: 6		\mathbf{O}_1	She did not finish high school.
	\mathbf{C}_1	Five or fewer		$_{2}$ O	She graduated from high school.
	₂ O	6-10		\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	She had some education after high school
	3 O	11-15		$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$	She graduated from college
	$_{4}$ O	16-20		₅ O	I don't know.
	₅ O	More than 20			
12	. How f	ar in school did your father go?	13.		often do people in your home talk to each in a language other than English?
	\mathbf{O}_{l}	He did not finish high school.		\circ	Never
	\mathbf{O}_{2}	He graduated from high school.		\mathbf{O}_1	
	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	He had some education after high school.		₂ O	Once in a while.
	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$	He graduated from college		3 O	About half the time
	\mathbf{O}_{c}	I don't know.		\mathbf{O}_{4}	All or most of the time
					.

SURVEY	TD#	
SURVEY	ID#	

This section is about reading and writing. The section has 5 questions.

14. Please indicate how much you DISAGREE or AGREE with the following statements about reading and writing.

Mark () one answer on each line.

	· / —-	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a.	When I read books, I learn a lot.	\mathbf{C}_1	$_{2}\mathbf{O}$	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	\mathbf{O}_{4}
b.	Reading is one of my favorite activities.	\mathbf{C}_1	$_{2}\mathbf{O}$	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	\mathbf{O}_{4}
c.	Writing things like stories or letters is one of my favorite activities.	\mathbf{O}_1	$_{2}$ O	₃ O	\mathbf{O}_{4}
d.	Writing helps me share my ideas.	\mathbf{C}_{l}	$_2$ O	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	$_{4}$ O

15. How often do you do each of the following? Mark () one answer on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
a. Read for fun on your own time.	\mathbf{O}_1	$_{2}$ O	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathbb{E}}$	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$
b. Talk with your friends or family about something you have read		$_{2}$ O	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	40
c. Write in a private diary or journ on your own time.		$_{2}$ O	₃ O	₄ O
d. Write e-mails to your friends or family.	\mathbf{O}_1	$_{2}$ O	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathbb{E}}$	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$

16. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of fiction? Mark (one answer on each line.

`	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At least once a week
a. Comic books or joke books	\mathbf{O}_1	$_2$ O	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$
b. Fiction books or stories (books or stories about imagined events)	\mathbf{O}_1	$_{2}\mathbf{O}$	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	₄ O
c. Plays	\mathbf{O}_1	\mathbf{O}_{2}	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	\mathbf{O}_{4}
d. Poems	\mathbf{O}_1	\mathbf{O}_{2}	$_{3}\mathbf{O}$	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$

SURVEY	ID#	
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17. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of non-fiction? Mark () one answer on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At Least once a week
a. Biographies or autobiographies	\mathbf{O}_1	$_{2}$ O	$_{3}$ O	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$
b. Books about science (for example, nature, animals, astronomy)	\mathbf{O}_{I}	$_{2}$ O	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	4 O
c. Books about technology (for example machines, computers)	\mathbf{O}_{l}	$_{2}$ O	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	$_4$ O
d. Books about history	\mathbf{O}_1	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{c}}$	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$

18. NOT including reading that you do for school, how often do you spend time reading each of the following types of articles or stories? Mark (one answer on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	At Least once a week
a. Articles or stories in a newspaper	\mathbf{O}_1	$_2$ O	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	$_{4}$ O
b. Articles or stories in a magazine	\mathbf{O}_1	$_2$ O	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$
c. Articles or stories on the Internet	\mathbf{O}_1	$_2$ O	\mathbf{O}_{ϵ}	$\mathbf{O}_{\mathtt{b}}$

THANK YOU!

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SURVEY	ID#	

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Enhanced Reading Opportunities Program

Beginning of Year Teacher Survey

Fall 2005

Name	 		
School			

The U.S. Department of Education wants to protect the privacy of individuals who participate in surveys. This cover sheet will be removed, your survey will be assigned an ID and no one will be able to match your name with the answers. This survey is authorized by law (1) Sections 171(b) and 173 of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-279 (2002); and (2) Section 9601 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 (Pub. L. 107-110).

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ERO Study Beginning of Year Teacher Survey – Part I:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND TRAINING

1) I am												
□ Female □ Male												
a) Di												
,	se tell us about your teachi	ng exp	erience pr	or to the current	school ye	ar						
Time teaching (total)yrs												
	eaching at current school				yrs							
	eaching at current level (i.e., h	Ū	,		yrs							
Time t Studie	eaching English Language Ar s	ts or So	cial		yrs							
What s	subject(s) did you teach during lyear?	g the pro	evious									
3) Plea	ase indicate the level(s) of c	ertificat	tion you he	old. (Check all tha	at apply.)							
	Elementary		High Scho	ool								
	K-8		Other leve	el of certification								
	Middle School		Provisiona	al or temporary cer	tification							
4) Plea	se describe the subject are	as of c	ertification	you hold. (Checl	k all that a	apply.)						
	English/English Language an journalism)	rts (e.g.	, literature,	reading, compositi	on,							
	Social Studies (e.g., econom sociology)	nics, his	tory, politica	al science, psychol	logy,							
	Math											
	Science											
	⊒ ESL/Bilingual											
	☐ Reading specialist											
	□ Special education											
	Vocational/Technical educat	ion										
	No subject certification											
	Other (please describe)											

5) V	Vha	t is th	ne hi	ighe	st d	egre	e yc	u ha	ive e	arne	d?		
		Asso	ciate	e de	gree								
		Bachelor's degree											
		Master's degree											
		Education specialist or professional diploma (at least one year beyond master's level)											
		Doct	orate	e or t	first p	orofe	essio	nal d	degre	ee			
		Do n	ot ha	ave a	a deg	gree							
6a)	Are	you	Hisp	oani	c or	Lati	no/a	?					
		No, I	am	not I	Hispa	anic	or L	atino	/a.				
		Yes,	I am	ı His	pani	c or	Latir	no/a.					
6b)				e foll	lowi	ng b	est	desc	ribe	s you	ı? Mark	all that apply.	
		White											
	_	Black	_	Atric	an-A	mer	ıcan						
		Asia			_								
		Ame		-									
									c Isla	ander	•		
		Othe	r (pl	ease	spe	cify)							
7) In the last two years, how many professional development workshops or training sessions have you attended that relate to reading/literacy education (Please circle the number of activities, and then write in the total number of hours.)													
			Н	ow r	nan	y wc	rksl	nops	?			How much time?	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10+	Total number of hours spent in workshops:	

8) On average, how much emphasis did these professional development activities place on the following topics? (Circle one number per row.)

		No emphasis	Minor emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Major emphasis
a.	State or district content standards related to reading/literacy education				
b.	Curriculum associated with a specific reading or literacy program				
C.	Student assessment techniques related to reading/literacy education				
d.	Reading-related instructional strategies for low-achieving students				
e.	Using student work to think about changing instruction or curricula for reading/literacy instruction		_		
f.	Using drills, memorization or other skills-based activities for reading/literacy instruction				
g.	Using long-term projects or reports for reading/ literacy instruction				
h.	Relating lessons to the real world during reading/literacy instruction				
i.	Using cooperative learning techniques for reading/literacy instruction				
j.	Using technology during reading/literacy instruction				

The following questions ask you to reflect on the characteristics of your school environment.

9) To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? *(Check one box per row.)*

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a.	Necessary materials such as textbooks and supplies are available as needed by the staff.		_		
b.	I have seen many programs come and go in my time teaching at this school.				
C.	Once we start a new program at this school, we follow up to make sure that it's working.		_		
d.	Most of my colleagues share my beliefs and values about good instructional practices.		_		
e.	The coordination of this school's instructional program has changed for the better because of the Small Learning Community initiative.		0		
f.	I make a conscious effort to coordinate the content of my courses with the content of courses in other subjects.		_		
g.	Student literacy seems to be high priority at this school.				
h.	A student literacy initiative will complement other initiatives currently in place at my school.		_		

10) How much do you disagree or agree with the following statements?

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a.	Cross-curricular activities are important to students' literacy development (e.g. writing in social studies, reading in math)				
b.	During literacy instruction, I believe it is important to give students time to work together when I am not directing them				
C.	It is important to encourage discussions of different opinions during literacy and reading instruction				
d.	Students learn literacy skills best when they engage in reading and writing to solve problems.				
e.	All students can learn to do challenging literacy tasks.				
f.	Teaching reading strategies should be an integral part of all subject area curricula.				

ERO Study Beginning of Year Teacher Survey – Part II:

REFLECTIONS ON PROGRAM TRAINING

11) Please rate the SIM/SLI program training by circling the appropriate number.

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a.	This workshop made me very enthusiastic about teaching the program.				
b.	It was easy to concentrate on the content of the workshop sessions.				
C.	The workshop presentations were well organized and informative.				
d.	I fully understand the information that was presented during the workshop sessions.				
e.	I had sufficient opportunities to have my questions answered during the workshop sessions.				
f.	Practice activities in the workshops were helpful.				
g.	The workshop sessions were engaging throughout.				
h.	This workshop was very enjoyable to me.				
i.	I will be able to present this program confidently to students with the help of the manuals, other materials, and support of the professional developers.	0			0
j.	Overall, I was highly satisfied with this workshop.				

12) Which of the following describes your expectations for SIM/SLI? (Check one box per row.)

I expect that SIM/SLI could be used	Yes	No
a. For improvement of students' reading skills.		
b. For improvement of students' writing skills.		
c. For motivating interest in school work.		
d. For teaching students to appreciate reading.		
e. For improving students' understanding of textbooks.		
f. For supplying new resources for classroom use.		
g. For improving student achievement on state or district tests.		
h. For providing new approaches to classroom instruction.		
 For providing professional development opportunities. 		

13) Based on your training on SIM/SLI thus far, please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about SIM/SLI. (Check one box per row.)

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a.	SIM/SLI-recommended strategies and activities are congruent with the state or district English language arts content standards.				0
b.	SIM/SLI-recommended strategies and activities will provide a good framework for what students should know about reading and language arts.	_	0		
C.	SIM/SLI-recommended strategies and activities conflict with the instructional objectives at my school.				
d.	SIM/SLI-recommended strategies and activities seem difficult to implement.				
e.	SIM/SLI-recommended strategies and activities are consistent with my personal beliefs about good instructional practices.		0		0
f.	SIM/SLI-recommended strategies and activities will not meet the needs of students in my classroom.				

14) How effective do you think SIM/SLI strategies and activities will be with the following groups of students? (Check one box per row.)

		Not effective	Somewhat effective	Moderately effective	Very effective	Not applicable
a.	Students who have reading difficulties					
b.	Low achieving students					
C.	Students with low motivation					
d.	Students with behavior management problems					
e.	Students with attendance problems					
f.	Male students					
g.	Female students					
h.	English language learners					
i.	Minority students					